

CLAIMS

1. An aqueous soil treatment composition comprising water and, in solution,
(a) an ionic water-soluble fertiliser in an amount of at least 10 wt.%, and
(b) a water-soluble anionic polymer which has intrinsic viscosity at least 6 dl/g and is formed from water-soluble monomer or monomer blend of which at least 40 wt.% is anionic monomer.
2. A composition according to claim 1 in which the polymer (b) has intrinsic viscosity from 8 to 18 dl/g.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the polymer (b) has intrinsic viscosity of from 9 to 12 dl/g.
4. A composition according to any preceding claim in which the polymer (b) is formed from water-soluble monomer or monomer blend comprising at least 50 wt.% anionic monomer.
5. A composition according to any preceding claim in which the polymer (b) is formed from water-soluble monomer blend comprising from 60 to 80 wt.% anionic monomer and from 40 to 20 wt.% non-ionic monomer.
6. A composition according to any preceding claim in which the polymer (b) is a copolymer of acrylamide with an alkali metal salt of acrylic acid.
7. A composition according to any preceding claim in which the polymer (b) is present in an amount of from 2 to 5 wt.%.
8. A composition according to any preceding claim in which the fertiliser (a) is present in an amount of from 20 to 60 wt.%.
9. A composition according to any preceding claim which has a viscosity of not more than 4,000 cps, preferably not more than 1,000 cps.
10. A composition according to any preceding claim which has a viscosity of from 200 to 500 cps.
11. A composition according to any preceding claim in which the polymer (b) has been added to the composition in the form of a powder.
12. A soil treatment process comprising irrigating an area of soil with water to which has been added an aqueous soil treatment composition as defined in claim 1.
13. A process according to claim 12 in which the irrigation is by furrow irrigation, drip irrigation or spray irrigation.

14. A process according to claim 12 in which water is pumped through feed ducting and a mixing zone to a spray manifold supplying one or more spraying devices by which the water is sprayed onto a crop area and the aqueous soil treatment composition is metered into the water at or before the mixing zone.
15. A method for the production of an aqueous soil treatment composition as defined in claim 1 comprising providing an aqueous solution of fertiliser (a) and mixing with it polymer (b) in powder form.
16. A process according to claim 12 or a method according to claim 15 in which the aqueous soil treatment composition has any of the additional features of claims 2 to 10.

2005/02/24 10:54:33